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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS - DUI FELON INDICTED ON IMMIGRATION CHARGES

Wichita, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Joel Rodriguez-Chavez**, 36, who recently was sentenced to 2 ½ years in the Sedgwick County Jail on a felony DUI conviction, is one of four men indicted by a federal grand jury here Tuesday for unlawfully re-entering the United States after they had been deported.

Rodriguez, who was identified in his DUI case as Joel Rodriguez Jr., is a Mexican national who was deported from the United States at Laredo, Texas, in 1995, Melgren said. Court records indicate he re-entered the United States without permission as recently as May 2001.

Rodriguez was sentenced September 30 in Sedgwick County District Court after the felony DUI conviction. According to court records, Rodriguez has been convicted at least 12 times of driving under the influence. If Rodriguez is convicted in the federal case, he faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison followed by mandatory deportation, Melgren said.

“We routinely and aggressively prosecute illegal aliens who have been deported from the United States but who choose to come back,” Melgren said. “Their prior deportations almost always are the result of criminal convictions within the United States. In Kansas, we prosecute about 100 such cases every year.”

The other three men allegedly had been deported subsequent to convictions for aggravated felonies as defined by the Immigration and Nationality Act, and all were indicted for aggravated re-entry after deportation, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 20 years. They are:

- **Jose Luis Enriquez-Madrid**, 47, Mexico. He was arrested in Hays, Kansas, on October 3, and allegedly was deported from the United States in 1987, 1994, and 1998.

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- **Cesar Mendez-Chavez**, 37, Mexico. He was arrested in Dodge City, Kansas, on October 14, and allegedly was deported from the United States in 2001.

- **Jose Granados-Cardona**, 42, Guatemala. He was arrested in Dodge City, Kansas, October 14, and allegedly was deported from the United States in 2002.

The cases were investigated by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson. As in any criminal case, those indicted are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.